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AMONG the meetings which have just been held in Philadelphia, was a friendly and informal gathering of some of the contributors to *Science*. About thirty persons came together, and listened to some statements which were made on the part of the managers, and expressed their views in respect to the position which this journal has taken and may take. The tone of the meeting was in all respects encouraging. A review which had been made of the subscription-list, by our publisher, shows that these pages now reach the chief scientific institutions and the chief scientific workers of the country. An effort will next be made to secure an extension of the circulation among other intelligent and educated classes.

Our contributors were invited at this meeting, and are always invited, to bear in mind that not only *Science* as a journal, but science in higher and broader aspects, will be best promoted by enlisting the attention of the general reader to the results which are attained in all departments of knowledge. This can only be done if our friends will write as persons who are specially informed, to persons who are not specially informed, on the subjects treated in our columns. One of our most valued contributors says that the man who is eminent in one department may have only an ordinary knowledge of other subjects: the greatest astronomer may be a tyro in entomology; the best of chemists may have no conception of elliptic functions. *Science* in its articles should be readable throughout; and, if our friends will continue to help us, we shall soon reach success.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

*\*\* Correspondents are requested to be as brief as possible. The writer's name is in all cases required as proof of good faith.*

##### Phosphorescence in the deep sea.

The following paragraph by Dr. Studer,<sup>1</sup> the naturalist of the *Gazette*, has probably escaped the notice of those who have lately written regarding the protective nature of the phosphorescence of pelagic animals. He closes a general description of phosphorescence in

<sup>1</sup> Ueber einige wissenschaftliche ergebnisse der gazellen-expedition . . . Verhandlungen des zweiten deutschen geographentages. Berlin, 1882.

marine animals, and the probable nature of it, as follows: 'Immer aber ist es ein von aussen kommender reiz, welcher das leuchten hervorbringt, so dass wir vielleicht die erscheinung als eine schutzvorrichtung für das tier betrachten dürfen.' He further says, on the same page, 'Wir dürfen vielleicht annehmen, dass es vorwiegend rote und orange strahlen sind, welche in diese tiefen gelangen (2-300 faden), dass die blauen und violetten schon vorher absorbiert und reflektirt werden. Daraus würde sich dann die vorwiegend rote färbung der Crustaceen als eine schutzfärbung erklären lassen, wie die vorwiegend blaue der am tage erscheinenden geschöpfe.'

ALEXANDER AGASSIZ.

Newport, Sept. 12, 1884.

##### Fish remains in North-American Silurian rocks.

The Rev. W. S. Symonds seems somewhat disturbed by my letter of July 11. He apparently fears lest the honor of yielding the earliest fish-remains should pass from England to North America.

My note to *Science* was purposely made very short, but I was quite aware of the fact that a *single* specimen of *Scaphaspis Ludensis* (not fish-remains) had been found in the *lower* Ludlow rocks. Mr. Symonds will excuse my reminding him that Sir C. Lyell mentions this discovery by Mr. Lee at Leentwardine in 1859. The statement may be found in his *Elements* for 1865: not having the book at hand, I cannot name the page. Professor Lankester also, in 1869, refers this species to the *lower* Ludlow. To have been unacquainted with the fact would therefore be inexcusable.

Mr. Symonds will probably be surprised to learn that I am a native of the county (Herefordshire) in which he has himself done so much excellent geological and archeological work. I have been familiar from boyhood with much of the country which forms the 'hunting-grounds' of the Woolhope club, and visited some of them as lately as 1879.

As an abstract of my paper will shortly appear, I refrain from giving details at present.

E. W. CLAYPOLE.

B. A. A. S., Montreal, Aug. 29.

##### Korean curios.

The article in *Science*, No. 82, entitled 'Korean curios,' contains some errors, excusable, however, when one considers the difficulty of speaking through two languages, and getting the information filtered back through the same channel. For these corrections, and the brief information embodied in them, I am indebted to one of the Korean embassy, Mr. Yu, who has been with me constantly for several months, and who now speaks very good English.

The ring worn upon the thumb of Min Yong Ik (who, by the way, is not a prince, but a noble) is the Chinese thumb-ring worn in archery, by means of which the bowstring is drawn back. These rings are often very expensive. I was shown one in Canton valued at one hundred and fifty dollars, and some are valued much higher. The Korean archery-ring for the thumb is nearly always of horn, and entirely different in shape.

The amber bead is not necessarily imported; as amber is found in Korea, and is recognized by the Koreans as being a kind of gum from pine. They regard the best and oldest, which is of light color, as being three thousand years old, the darkest and poorest as being one thousand years old.

The button represented in Fig. 4 can only be worn by high officials. Officers of the first rank wear